

~~SECRET~~  
SENSITIVE

TO WTEID  
DE WTEIO 439AU  
EELADDS  
OF WTEIO  
DE WTE 381-

FROM WALT ROSTOK  
TO THE PRESIDENT  
INFO GEORGE CHRISTIAN  
CITE CAP-2320

Received Washington Command  
9:50 A.M. EDT Saturday 31 Aug 64

Received LDC Ranch Command  
10:10 A.M. EDT Saturday 31 Aug 64

Received Austin Command  
10:40 A.M. EDT Saturday 31 Aug 64

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HEREWITH \_\_\_\_\_ LATEST ASSESSMENT OF THE EAST EUROPEAN  
SITUATION (AS OF 8:30 AM EDT)

31 AUGUST 1964

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1. THE PRE-INVASION CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY MET THIS MORNING TO DISCUSS ITS COMPOSITION AND THE "PERSONNEL QUESTION" IN THE PARTY PRESIDIUM AND SECRETARIAT. RADIA CZECHOSLOVAKIA INDICATED THAT THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE WOULD ALSO REVIEW PROBLEMS REGARDING SLOVAK REPRESENTATION ON THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE WHICH HAVE ARISEN AS A RESULT OF THE RECENT COUNCIL CONGRESS.

2. CZECHOSLOVAK INTERIOR MINISTER JUREK PAVEL HAS RESIGNED, ACCORDING TO AN AUSTRIAN RADIO REPORT FROM "WELL INFORMED PRAGUE QUARTERS." THE DISSEMINATOR STATED THAT JAN PELNAR, SECRETARY OF THE WEST BOHEMIAN PARTY COMMITTEE, WILL REPLACE HIM. PELNAR, WHO HAD BEEN CONSIDERED A NOVOTNY MAN UNTIL THE LATTER'S FALL FROM POWER, ALLEGEDLY JOINED THE DUBCEK GROUP LAST APRIL. A RELIABLE EMBASSY PRAGUE SOURCE ATTRIBUTES PAVEL'S CUSTER TO HIS OPPOSITION TO ANY NEW WAVE OF ARRESTS.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER JIRI HAJEK DEPARTED VIENNA FOR BERLIN EARLY TODAY, AND "INFORMED SOURCES" IN VIENNA DOUBTED IF HE WOULD RETURN TO PRAGUE SOON. HAJEK IS PRESUMABLY AMONG THOSE ON MOSCOW'S BLACKLIST.

4. THE GOVERNMENT HAS PUSHED BACK THE BRNO INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR ONE WEEK, AND THE FAIR IS NOW SCHEDULED FOR 14-24 SEPTEMBER. CZECHOSLOVAK OFFICIALS ARE PRESENTLY TRYING TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO HOLD OTHER INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS WHICH WERE SCHEDULED PRIOR TO THE OCCUPATION.

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5. THERE IS TENUOUS EVIDENCE THAT ELEMENTS OF THE SOVIET 11TH ARMY WHICH RECENTLY MOVED INTO CENTRAL EAST GERMANY AND NORTHWESTERN CZECHOSLOVAKIA FROM THE BALTIC AREA WILL REMAIN IN THE FORWARD AREA INDEFINITELY. ON 29 AUGUST A [REDACTED] AT A FIELD HEADQUARTERS OF THE SOVIET 1ST GUARDS TANK ARMY IN WESTERN CZECHOSLOVAKIA REFERRED TO THE 11TH ARMY AS "REMAINING HERE OR ELSE IN EAST GERMANY."

6. THE SOVIETS ARE BRINGING AIR SURVEILLANCE RADAR AND REPORTING EQUIPMENT INTO CZECHOSLOVAKIA. THEY PROBABLY NEED THIS EQUIPMENT TO COMPENSATE FOR THE LOSS OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK AIR DEFENSE REPORTING NETWORK, WHICH HAS BEEN SILENT SINCE THE SOVIET INTERVENTION.

7. THERE IS LITTLE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE RUMANIAN SITUATION SUBSEQUENT TO THIS MORNING'S MEMORANDUM: POSSIBLE SOVIET MILITARY THREAT TO RUMANIA.

8. THE SOVIET AIR FORCE'S METEOROLOGICAL NETWORK HAS BEEN BROADCASTING WEATHER CONDITIONS IN RUMANIA AND YUGOSLAVIA SINCE 28 AUGUST, SUGGESTING THAT FLIGHTS INTO THE BALKANS ARE ANTICIPATED. THE SOVIETS ONLY ALSO RELEASE THIS INFORMATION FOR FORECASTING IN THE USSR, HOWEVER. REPORTING FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA WAS DIMINISHED CONSIDERABLY.

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